

Ser. No. 09/990,954  
Informal communication --  
PROPOSED amendment to claims 4 & 24

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Signature Loop Authorizing Method and Apparatus

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Applicant  
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#### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS 4 AND 24 (APPROVAL MATRIX)

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3 wherein identifying which of the plurality of roles is required to authorize the business process comprises providing an approval matrix associated with the business process, wherein the approval matrix includes one or more rows and one or more columns, wherein each entry in the approval matrix is defined by a corresponding row and a corresponding column, wherein each column entry in the approval matrix defines ~~is associated with~~ a potential condition and each row defines an ~~a corresponding~~ approval role, wherein each entry in the approval matrix defines whether the approval role in the corresponding row that is required for the business process when if the potential condition in the corresponding column is met, determining a set of conditions that apply to the business process, ~~with the column~~ defining ~~associated with~~ potential conditions that are met by the conditions that apply to the business process, and identifying the approval roles defined by ~~associated with the set of~~ entries in the approval matrix ~~that are associated with potential conditions that are met by the conditions that apply to the business process~~ as the roles required to authorize the business process.

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24. (currently amended) A method for obtaining approval for a business process comprising:

selecting an approval matrix associated with the business process, wherein the approval matrix includes one or more rows and one or more columns, wherein each entry in the approval matrix is defined by a corresponding row and a corresponding column, wherein each column entry in the approval matrix defines ~~is associated with~~ a potential condition and each row in the approval matrix defines a corresponding approval role, wherein each entry defines whether the approval role in the corresponding row that is required for the business process if when the potential condition in the corresponding column is met;

determining which of the columns in the approval matrix define potential conditions ~~identified in the approval matrix that~~ are met;

selecting a set of approval roles from corresponding to rows in the approval matrix, as defined by the entries corresponding to the potential conditions that are met; *within said column*

identifying one or more positions corresponding to each of the approval roles in the selected set of approval roles; and

obtaining approval from each of the identified positions.